

Message Text

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STADIS/////////////////
FOR MOOSE FROM VERNON JOHNSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, AF, MO

SUBJECT: QUESTIONS RE SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (SDP)
PER YOUR REQUEST

1. QUESTIONS FOR U.S. PERSONNEL:

A. ALREADY THERE IS TALK THAT THE RAINS ARE FAILING THIS
YEAR. IS THIS A TRUE STATEMENT? IF THE RAINS ARE POOR,
WHAT DOES THIS IMPLY RE LOCAL FOOD SUPPLIES? WILL MORE
FOOD AID BE NEEDED?

B. REALIZING THAT AID BUDGETS ARE IN ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS,
IS THE SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (SDP) OF SUCH A NATURE
AND OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE TO REQUEST MULTI-YEAR FUNDING?
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IS THE PROGRAM IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY THE LARGE
INVESTMENT THAT WILL BE REQUIRED (DOLS 150 MILLION IN
FY 80)? CAN THESE LARGE AMOUNTS OF FUNDS BE JUSTIFIED?

C. CAN THE SDP MEET ITS OBJECTIVES THROUGH A BASIC HUMAN
NEEDS APPROACH? OR, ARE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS SUCH AS
WATER CONTROL, TRANSPORT, SERVICE INSTITUTIONS, ABSOLUTELY

ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS? WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WE CANNOT AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS SUCH AS DAMS AND RIVER VALLEY DEVELOPMENT?

D. THERE IS A MOVE IN CONGRESS TO REDUCE THE FY 79 SAHEL BUDGET FROM DOLS 90 MILLION TO DOLS 60 MILLION ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE LARGER FIGURE CANNOT BE ABSORBED. WHAT IS YOUR REPLY TO THIS?

E. IS THE CLUB DU SAHEL AND THE CILSS PROVIDING THE GUIDANCE AND LEADERSHIP THAT IS REQUIRED FOR SAHEL DEVELOPMENT?

F. IS THERE SUFFICIENT COORDINATION AMONG THE DONORS?

G. ARE THE HOST COUNTRIES COOPERATIVE OR DO THEY LOOK AT SAHEL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS AS BEING COMPETITIVE WITH OTHER BILATERAL REQUESTS?

H. WHAT IMPROVEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IN THE CLUB/CILSS/ HOST COUNTRY/DONOR RELATIONSHIPS? TO WHAT EXTENT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SDP UNDERSTOOD BY ALL AID EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING CONTRACT EMPLOYEES?

I. ARE HOST COUNTRIES' EMPLOYEES CLEAR ON SDP OBJECTIVES?

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J. CAN LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES LIKE UPPER VOLTA AND MALI DEVELOP THEIR ECONOMIES WITHOUT EXPANDING THEIR MARKETS TO THE COASTAL AFRICAN STATES?

K. SHOULD THE ROLE OF ECOWAS AND SIMILAR MECHANISMS BE EXPANDED AND CLARIFIED?

L. UNDER THE SDP TO WHAT EXTENT IS YOUR AID MISSION CONTRIBUTING DIRECTLY TO BASIC HUMAN NEEDS -- ARE YOU ENGAGED IN HELPING TO GROW MORE FOOD; IN DIRECT HEALTH IMPROVEMENT AND PROVIDING BETTER HOUSES OR BETTER EDUCATION? CAN YOU DOCUMENT CLEARLY AND OBJECTIVELY WHAT YOU HAVE ACHIEVED IN THIS REGARD AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, AT THE END OF FIVE YEARS? SHOULD THE LENGTH OF OUR PROJECTS UNDER THE SDP BE EXTENDED, SAY TO 10 OR EVEN 15 YEARS?

M. IS IT UNUSUALLY DIFFICULT TO RECRUIT U.S. PERSONNEL FOR COUNTRIES LIKE UPPER VOLTA?

N. WHAT SPECIFICALLY IS BEING DONE TO SOLVE THE CRITICAL LOCAL MANPOWER SHORTAGES IN SAHEL COUNTRIES?

O. PEACE CORPS ALSO EMPHASIZES FOOD PRODUCTION AND OTHER BASIC HUMAN NEEDS. IS THE PEACE CORPS GEARED TO TAKE ON THIS ASSIGNMENT? DOES IT HAVE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES ON HAND -- TOOLS, TRANSPORT, A LOCAL BUDGET FOR PRODUCTIVE CONTINGENCIES? WHAT IMPROVEMENT SHOULD BE MADE IN PEACE CORPS FIELD OPERATIONS.

2. QUESTIONS FOR HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS:

A. IS THERE ANY CONFLICT BETWEEN YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE CLUB DU SAHEL/CILSS ABOUT THEIR LEADERSHIP ROLE OR DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES?

B. IS THE SDP GOING WELL ENOUGH AND RAPID ENOUGH TO SUIT YOU? WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE?
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C. WHAT ARE YOUR FIVE HIGHEST DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES IN THE SAHEL -- IN YOUR COUNTRY?

D. HOW LONG WILL IT BE BEFORE YOUR COUNTRY IS SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD? ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE PERFORMANCE BEING MADE IN FOOD PRODUCTION?

E. DO OFFICERS OF YOUR MINISTRY/GOVERNMENT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SDP? ARE THEY WILLING TO SURRENDER POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS AND RESOURCES THAT OTHERWISE MAY BE DIRECTLY AVAILABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT? WHAT IMPROVEMENTS DO YOU SUGGEST SHOULD BE MADE IN THE CLUB/CILSS ARRANGEMENT?

F. WE HEAR THAT COUNTRIES SUCH AS UPPER VOLTA DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS ON RECURRENT ACCOUNT TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTRIBUTION TO DONOR PROJECTS. IS THIS A GROWING PROBLEM FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT? HOW DO YOU THINK IT SHOULD BE SOLVED?

3. GENERAL

WHAT CAN VISITING CONGRESSMEN AND OTHERS SEE IN THE SAHEL TO CONVINCE THEM THAT USAID FUNDS ARE WELL SPENT? IS THERE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE, OTHER EVIDENCE? CHRISTOPHER

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